




Crown of Thorns

STORY & ART BY
Yoko Kamio

2



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2

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High school student Nobara Fukami has seen strange things since she was a child, but it's a gift that has brought her a life of isolation. She nearly died when she was young, but her grandfather made a deal with a demon to save her. However, the deal keeping her alive is set to expire when she turns 18.

Just before her 16th birthday, Nobara is visited by a demon named Lucio. He demands Nobara filter negative human emotions through her own body to make the special orbs on which demons feed. While fulfilling this duty, Nobara finally finds someone who seems to truly understand her—the demon she serves. However, a demon of ruination named Lee also visits Nobara, telling her that Lucio is a “reject” and that she should ask him for his real name.

Meanwhile, after boasting, “I have a demon too,” Nobara's classmate Henmi suddenly collapses in front of her...

いばらの 冠の 元

CROWN
OF
THORNS

case
7









...HE JUST
COLLAPSED
?

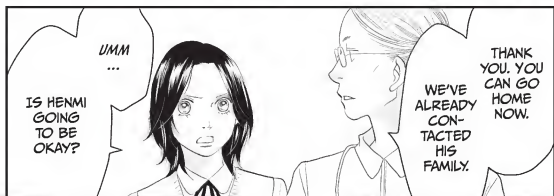
YEAH.



HE WAS
TALKING,
AND THEN
SUDDENLY
...

...HE HAD
TROUBLE
CATCHING
HIS BREATH.

AND
THEN...

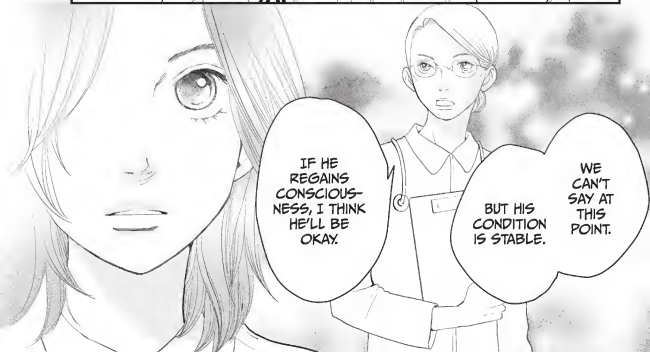


UMM
...

IS HENMI
GOING
TO BE
OKAY?

THANK
YOU. YOU
CAN GO
HOME
NOW.

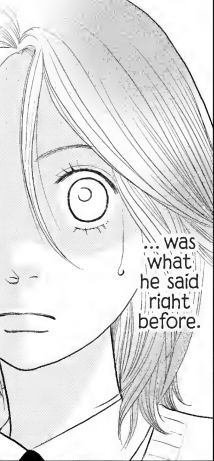
WE'VE
ALREADY
CON-
TACTED
HIS
FAMILY.



IF HE
REGAINS
CONSCIOUS-
NESS, I THINK
HE'LL BE
OKAY.

BUT HIS
CONDITION
IS STABLE.

WE
CAN'T
SAY AT
THIS
POINT.

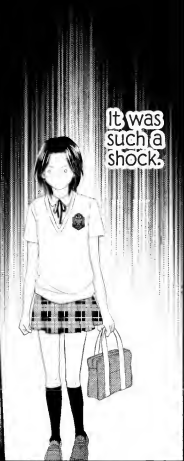


... was
what
he said
right
before.

I mean, I was
surprised he
collapsed like
that...



But more
shocking
still...



It was
such a
shock.

The
nerve!

Acting
like he's
some
kind of
saint...

... to
hide
what a
scumbag
he really
is.



That creep
is serving
a demon
too!





What...



LUCIO? IS
THAT THE
NAME YOU
CALL HIM?

YOU
SHOULD
ASK HIM
WHAT
HIS REAL
NAME
IS.



I wonder
if
Lucio
home
now?

There's nothing good on TV anymore! Nothing but dumb specials!

It's true that he can be kind of pathetic

...

More fussy than scary, really.

And a total coach potato.

And he's not very impressive for a demon.

...did Lee mean by that?

HE'S A REJECT THROUGH AND THROUGH.

WHAT?!

IF THAT'S WHAT HE MEANT BY "REJECT," THAT'S FAIR...

WHO'S A REJECT NOW?



HEY.

WHAT'S
WITH THE
CLOTHES
?

I WENT
SHOPPING.



STOP
READING MY
THOUGHTS!

YOUR
THOUGHTS
WERE SPILLING
OUT OF YOUR
MOUTH.

Moron.



WHEN YOU
WEAR NORMAL
CLOTHES, YOU
ACTUALLY LOOK
LIKE A REAL
PERSON.

THESE
SUIT ME
WELL.

RIGHT
?

Yeah.



WHA
...?

WHOA.



I CAN'T BE
SEEN IN MY
USUAL BLACK
WARDROBE
DURING SUMMER,
RIGHT?





HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!

THANKS FOR
HAVING US
OVER!

BUT YOU
CALLED ME
THORNY
ROSE THIS
MORNING.

LET'S BE
FRIENDS
FOREVER.

ALL
RIGHT
EVERY-
ONE!

ALL
TOGETHER
NOW!

I CAN'T
BELIEVE
IT'S YOUR
BIRTHDAY!

WHAT
?!

HUH
?
IT WAS
MONTHS
AGO!

HAPPY
BIRTH-
DAY!

YAY
!



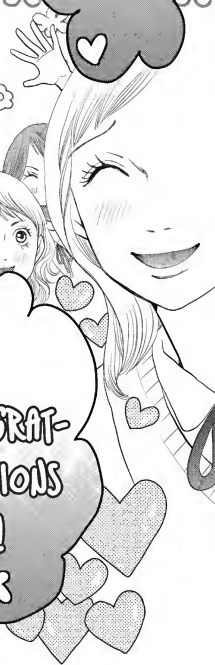


IT'S
...
YOUR
SWEET
SIXTEEN
!

HAPPY
BIRTH-
DAY!
♡



CONGRAT-
ULATIONS
!
★







WHAT ON EARTH...?
IS THAT THE RIVER?!

WE WERE
JUST AT SCHOOL
...

HOW'D
WE GET
HERE
...?



I CANNOT
BELIEVE
YOU DID
THAT! WHAT
THE HELL
KIND OF
CRAP-ASS
DEMON...?!



I. Am.
NOT.
Happy.

Come
on,
that
was
fun

DON'T
GET SO
ANGRY.



LOOK!

I GOT YOU
A CAKE.
LET'S HAVE
SOME.





Never
mind that.

WHAT
IS IT?

What is
this?

This
feeling.



Bubbling
up from
inside of
me...

It's so
weird...

ばく

MUNCH

...
having
some-
one
care
about
me.

I COULDN'T
MAKE OUT HIS
REAL NAME.

BUT HE
SAID TO
CALL HIM
"LEE."

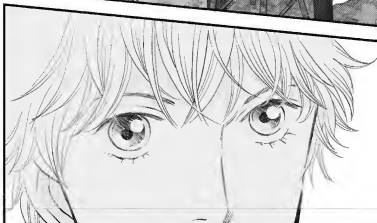
I SAW
THAT
DEMON
AGAIN
TODAY.

I GUESS I'D
BETTER TELL
YOU BEFORE
YOU FIND OUT
YOURSELF.



HE TOLD
ME THAT
I SHOULD
ASK YOU...

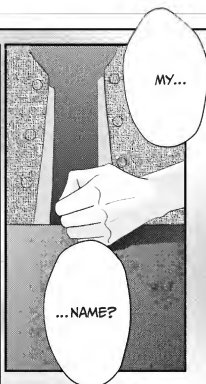
...WHAT
YOUR
NAME IS.



YOU TOLD ME
TO CALL YOU
WHATEVER.

SO I
CALLED YOU
LUCIO.

I ASKED
YOU ONCE
BEFORE.



MY...

...NAME?



AND
"LUCIO" IS
FINE WITH
ME!



BETTER
THAN SOME
WEIRD NAME
I CAN'T EVEN
PRONOUNCE.

Like
I care
about
anything
that creep
says.

LUCIO IS
GOOD.





THAT'S
JUST HOW
IT IS.

I DON'T
REMEMBER
BEING BORN.



HOW...

HOW CAN
YOU...?



WHEN I
GAINED
CONSCIOUS-
NESS...

...I WAS JUST
FLOATING IN
DARKNESS.





Greetings



I'm
Yoko
Kamio

Thank you for
buying Crown of
Thorns volume
2

This is my first
ever fantasy
manga!

I'm so glad I was
able to fulfill my
dream of writing
fantasy.

And I'm honored
that you read it
till the end

They asked
me to write
a little bonus
manga at the
end of this
volume.



I hope you'll
enjoy it!



I'M
AFRAID...

...HE HASN'T
REGAINED
CONSCIOUS-
NESS.

Why
do I
have...

... such
a bad
feeling
about
this?



Ugh.

My heart is pounding.

RIGHT?



WELL ...

I'M NOT SURPRISED.



SO HE HAD ONE TOO, HUH?

YEAH.

HE JUST TOLD ME.



THERE.

THAT'S THE HOSPITAL HE'S AT.

Sign: Shuei Hospital



THIS IS FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN LUCIO LIKE THIS.



NO, NOT YET.

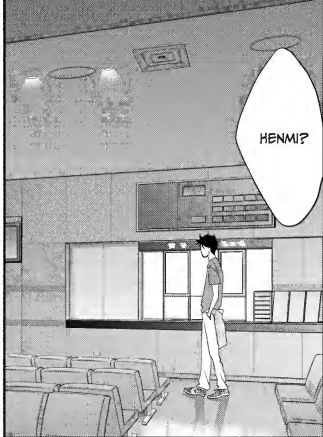
OH!

IS THAT ...



...

DID YOU SEE HIS DEMON?



HENMI?



IT IS
HIM!

HE'S
AWAKE!



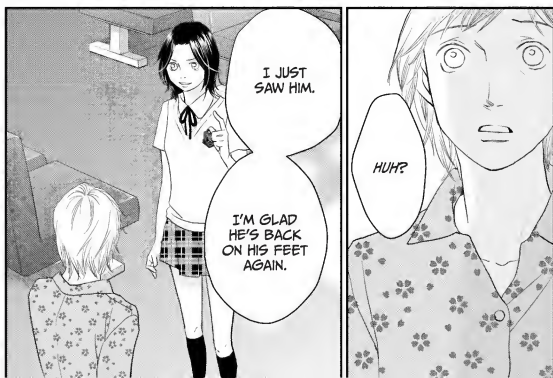
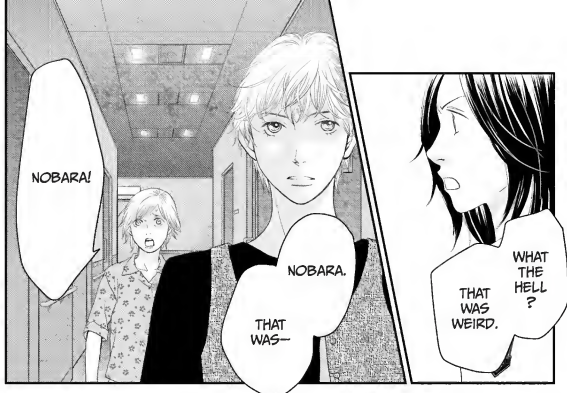
SO
YOU'RE
OKAY?

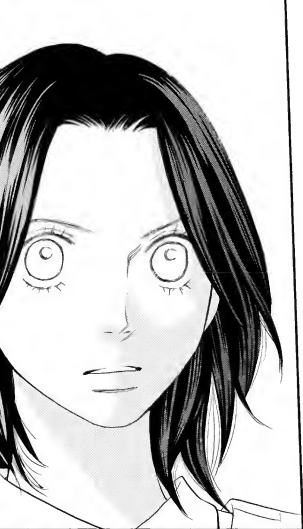
HENMI?

HEY!



HENMI!







No way...

MS.
HENMI...

Then that
means...

EXCUSE
ME A
MOMENT!



It can't be...



...DEAD
OR...

...A DEMON
THEMSELVES
...





HENMI!





This
can't be
good.

*WHEN I GAINED
CONSCIOUSNESS*

...



*...I WAS JUST
FLOATING IN
DARKNESS.*

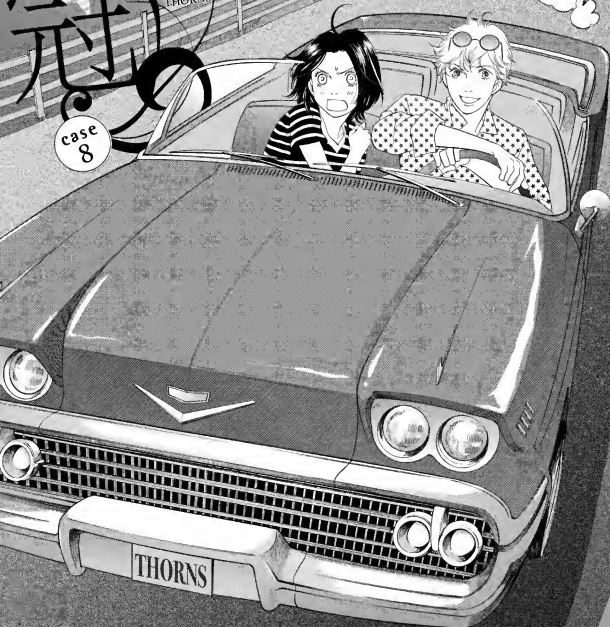


いばの冠

case
8

CROWN
OF
THORNS

CLIFFS
AHEAD





YOU'RE
HENMI!

WHO
...?

...is
Henmi?

Who...





Who ...
...are you?

Name ?

DON'T YOU...

DON'T YOU REMEMBER YOUR OWN NAME?



HEH HEH HEH



WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO ABOUT THIS, LUCIO?

CAN YOU TURN HIM BACK?



Is this how people become demons?

SHUDDER



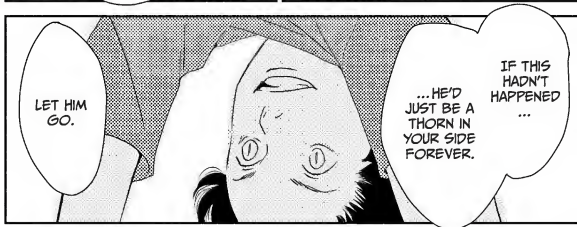
YOU'RE
NOT
WRONG,
BUT...

YOU DON'T
GET IT, DO
YOU?



WELL...

IS THIS SO
BAD? THE GUY
WAS A TOTAL
SOCIOPATH.



LET HIM
GO.

IF THIS
HADN'T
HAPPENED
...
...HE'D
JUST BE A
THORN IN
YOUR SIDE
FOREVER.



EVEN
HIS
NAME.



IT LOOKS LIKE
HE'S ALREADY
FORGOTTEN
EVERYTHING.

Lucio...

JUST
LIKE...

...ME.

Is this...

...what
happened to
you?

THIS IS WHAT
BECOMES
OF HUMANS
WHO SERVE
DEMONS.



LEE!

HONESTLY ...

HE HAD A
PRETTY
GOOD RUN.



...IT'S
YOU?!

IT
CAN'T
BE...

THE DEMON
HENMI WAS
SERVING...



"LUCIO,"
WAS IT?

TCH.

AND
WHAT
ABOUT
YOU?



FROM
THE MOST
DREADFUL
DEMON OF
ALL.



A SADLY
FAMILIAR
OUTCOME.



ISN'T THAT
ADORABLE.

HAS
SOMEONE
CLIPPED
YOUR
WINGS?



PLAYING
THE BOY-
FRIEND TO
THE HUMAN
YOU'VE
ENSLAVED
?



BUT IF
YOU LAY A
FINGER ON
HER...



I KNOW
HOW MUCH
YOU WANT
NOBARA.

HOW MUCH
YOU'D RATHER
HAVE HER THAN
YOUR LITTLE
FRIEND UP
THERE.



...I WILL
MAKE YOU
PAY FOR IT.



WHAT A
TOUCHING
SENTIMENT.

STILL...



REJECT.

NO
MATTER
HOW
WELL YOU
TWO GET
ALONG

... THIS IS
HOW THINGS
ALWAYS END,
BETWEEN
HUMANS AND
DEMONS.



... TO
BRING
HENMI
BACK!

TELL ME
HOW...

WAIT!

POOR,
NAMELESS
LUCIO.

LUCIO
RIGHT
THERE IS
YOUR HINT.

That's right.
Henmi's
forgotten his
name too.

"Name-
less
..."


HENMI!

**GET
DOWN
HERE!**

IT'S
POSSIBLE.

**NAMES
...!**

**CAN
DEMONS
RETURN
IF THEY
REMEMBER
THEIR
NAMES?**



I KNOW
YOU WANT
THIS, HENMI!



ヘヘヘ
HEH HEH HEH

Henmi!
Come
down!

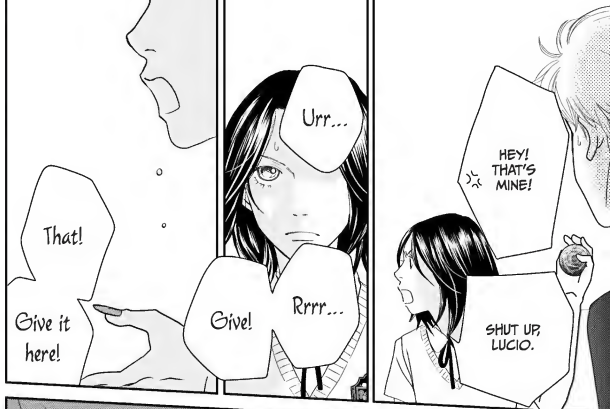
ヘヘヘ
MUTTER
MUTTER



COME
AND GET
IT!

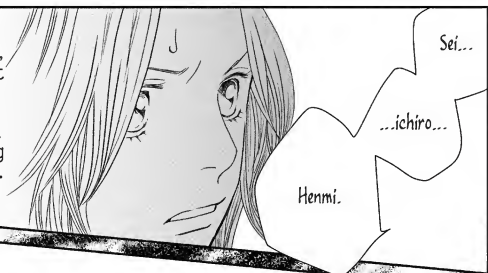


OH!





Honestly, I couldn't care less about this twit becoming a demon.



I'm not that nice of a person.

THAT'S FIVE TIMES!

THAT'S FOUR TIMES.












I MEAN,
I'VE
SEEN HER
AROUND
A FEW
TIMES...

I HAVEN'T
SAID A WORD
TO HER
SINCE GRADE
SCHOOL!



SEI!



He doesn't
remember
...?



WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

YOU'RE
BEING
INCREDIBLY
RUDE TO
NOBARA!

ALL THE
MALICE
IN HIM IS
GONE.

IT WAS
LIKE HE'S A
DIFFERENT
PERSON.

ONE
OF HIS
RUSES?



NOW I
CAN'T EVEN
GET BACK
AT HIM FOR
IT ALL!

AFTER
ALL THE
HORRIBLE
THINGS HE
DID...

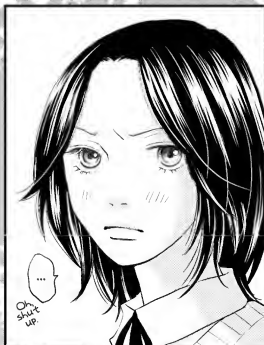
ARGH!

I DON'T
THINK
SO.

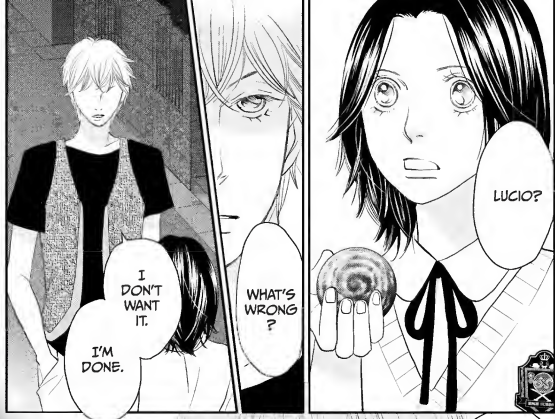
I
GUESS
SO.

HE'S
FORGOTTEN
ALL THE
THINGS HE
DID TO ME?

SO...










I CAN
MAKE THE
ORBS
WITHOUT IT
AFFECTING
ME.

YOU
SAID SO
YOURSELF,
REMEMBER
?

SO I'LL KEEP
ON BANGING
THEM OUT
FOR YOU!



THIS IS BECAUSE
OF WHAT LEE SAID,
RIGHT? ABOUT
HOW THINGS END
BETWEEN HUMANS
AND DEMONS?

Is
Lucio...

... trying to
leave me?

I GOTTA
DO THIS TO
STAY ALIVE,
REMEMBER?

WHO
DOES
IT HELP
FOR ME
TO QUIT?



IF
THAT'S
WHAT
YOU
WANT
...

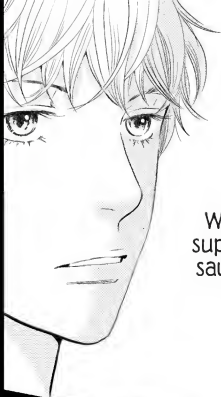
... YOU
SHOULD
HAVE JUST
LET ME DIE
TO BEGIN
WITH!

What
am I
doing?

Why
am I
saying
it like
this?



I MEAN,
COULD YOU
BE MORE
SELFISH?!



What am I
supposed to
say to stop
him?

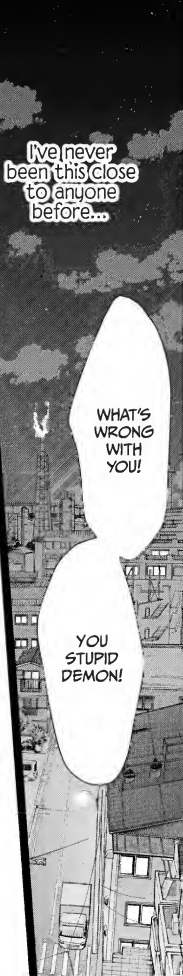
I've never
been this close
to anyone
before...



I have
no
idea.

WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH
YOU!

YOU
STUPID
DEMON!





READING
HUMAN
MINDS IS
WHAT I
DO.

WHO DO
YOU THINK
YOU'RE
TALKING
TO?



UH-HUH.

WELL,
YOU'RE
DOING IT
WRONG!

YOU'RE
JUST SOME
AWFUL
DEMON TO
ME.



CREEP!

BESIDES, I
TOLD YOU
TO STOP
THAT.



...and
now I
can't stop
crying.

For a
moment I
thought
he might
leave
me...





IT LOOKS
LIKE I MIGHT
HAVE BEEN
HUMAN ONCE
TOO.

At
night
...

... white
smoke
seeps out
of the
smoke-
stacks...

Just
like the
whisper

...

... that
slips like a
sigh from
Lucio's
lips.

I WANT
TO KNOW
MY OWN
NAME.



いはらの 冠

GROWN
OF
THORNS

case
9





Maybe I
should have
come up
with a better
name.

Some-
thing
cooler
than
Lucio.

Like
Orlando.
Or
George.









AREN'T
YOU OVER
THIS YET?



HE, LIKE,
LITERALLY
SPARKLED.

WHOA, THAT
DUDE WAS
HANDSOME!

HONESTLY,
I HAVE NO
IDEA.

WHAT'S
THEIR DEAL,
SEIICHIRO?



DO YOU
REALLY...

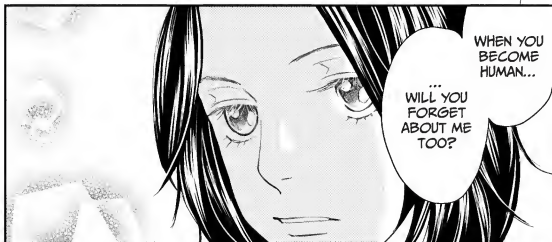
...WANT TO
LEARN YOUR
NAME?



LIAR...
OWWWW...

GIVE
IT UP
ALREADY!

HENMI DOESN'T
REMEMBER
ANYTHING!





SEE IF
I CARE!

YOU
WANT TO
LEAVE? THEN
GO RIGHT
AHEAD!

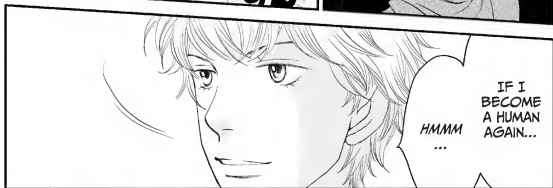
I GUESS
WILD ROSES
REALLY
DO HAVE
THORNS.

AGAIN
WITH THE
TEMPER!



OH,
SHUT UP!

YOU THINK IT'S
FUN BEING
TOYED WITH
BY PEOPLE
WHO GO ON TO
FORGET I EVEN
EXISTED?



HMMM
...

IF I
BECOME
A HUMAN
AGAIN...



SMOOCHY
SMOOCH

...



Come on,
quit it!
People are
watching!

イチャイチャ
CUDDLE
CUDDLE



BECAUSE
THAT WAS
JUST AS
MEAN.

WAS THAT
YOU TRYING
TO SAY
SOMETHING
NICE?



I CAN'T
BELIEVE
HOW MEAN
YOU ARE!

THERE'S
TOTALLY A
ONE PERCENT
CHANCE THEIR
KID COULD
GET ALL THE
RECESSIVE
GENES.




...IT'S
ONLY
GOING
TO LEAD
TO MORE
UGLY
PEOPLE.

WHEN UGLY
PEOPLE LIKE
THAT FALL IN
LOVE ...



IF I
BECOME
HUMAN...



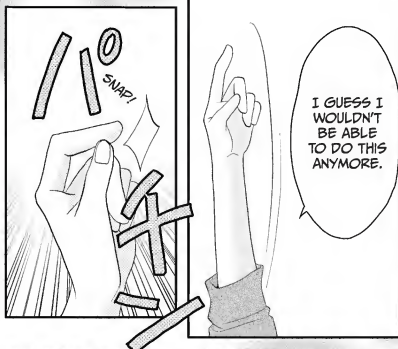


...I THINK YOU
AND I WOULD
REALLY GET
ALONG.

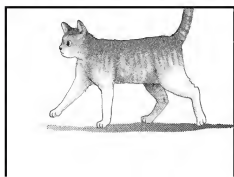


I feel so
happy...

I...
GUESS
SO.



And at the same time, so worried.









Wow.

I said
it!

...



BUT...

IT'LL BE
OKAY.

WHAT
INTERESTS
ME...

...IS
CONTINUING
TO BE WITH
YOU.





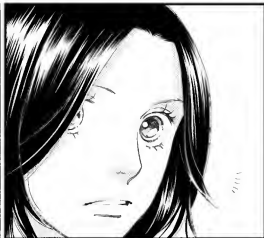
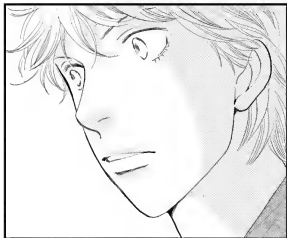




And he
hasn't
responded
at all.

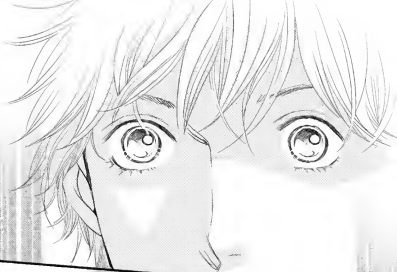


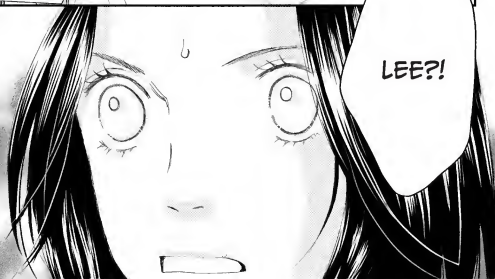
I
basically
told
him I
wanted
to be
with
him.



WHAT...

WHAT
IS IT?





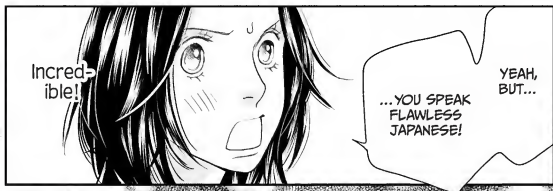
... Where
Lucio is
from?

Could
that
be...



Is that
it?







I'M
GONNA
...

...GO TO THE
SCHOOL'S
COMPUTER
LAB AND
DO SOME
RESEARCH.

Will I get
to meet
a human
Lucio?



My
heart is
pounding.



I KNEW I
SHOULD HAVE
GOTTEN A
COMPUTER
FOR HOME...

OH,
WELL.

I'LL CATCH
YOU LATER.

Oh! I'd
better
start
getting
some
money
together
!

What will
we do
about the
language
issue?





IMPRESSIVE.

I've never
left the
country
before.

I hope it'll
be okay.






HUMANS
ARE SO
FASCINATING.

HOW
QUICKLY
THEY
CHANGE!



HEY...

"LUCIO"...



MOST
WOULDN'T
REMEMBER
AT ALL.

INTER-
ESTING.

BUT YOU
WERE A
BETTER
HUMAN
THAN
MOST.

あは
...
...
...



IT
LOOKED...
FAMILIAR.



DID THAT
VIDEO BRING
BACK ANY
MEMORIES?



THE ONE
WHO MADE
ME LIKE
THIS.

HEY
NOW.

YOU
WANTED
THIS.



WAS IT
YOU?

THE
DEMON I
SERVED.



YOU ASKED
ME TO TAKE
YOU WITH ME.

YOU'D
LOST YOUR
PARENTS, YOU
HAD NO LIVING
RELATIVES.



GRANDPA...

GRANDPA'S
DEAD...



The only
person
who ever
cared
about me.



I'm so
sad.

There's no
one left who
understands
me.

Nobara.

But...

I can still
hear that
voice...



As long
as I can
hear that
voice...

I'll never
truly be
alone.

How I
yearn for
the day
that we
can finally
meet.

COMPUTER LAB





I've got
to learn
everything
I can.



I
WONDER
IF WE
COULD
EVEN
COMMUNI-
CATE.

WHAT
LANGUAGE
DO THEY
SPEAK IN
SWEDEN?



WE CAN
WORK
THAT OUT
LATER.

NO...


FORGET
ALL THAT.



✖
ZONED
OUT...

Today...

... was so
much fun,
just walking
and laughing
together.



Lucio might
be asleep, all
alone.

I should be
the one to go
to him.



Our
last day
together
...

... was
fast
approach-
ing.

And I was
the only
one who
didn't seem
to know it.



いばらの冠

CROWN
OF
THORNS

case
10

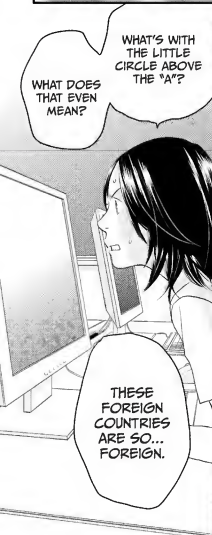
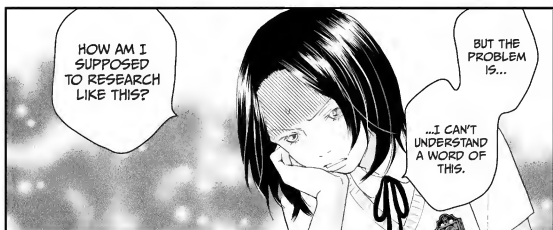
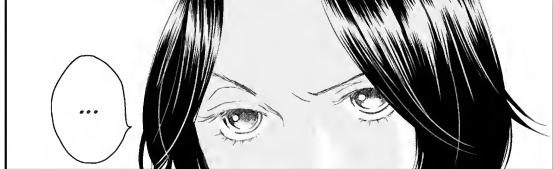


MAYBE
YOU'LL
FIND WHAT
YOU SEEK
THERE.

GOTLAND
ISLAND IN
SWEDEN.

That might
be where
the human
Lucio is.





Pretty
funny that
it would
be for a
demon.

I've never
worked so
hard for
someone
else
before.

WHAT
NOW
...?

...
now
...

...I kind
of get
it.

I'd see
them
doing
anything
and
ever-
thing for
some
guy...

Before
this...

... I never
really
understood
what the
other girls
were talking
about.

But...

... and I'd
only ever
make fun
of them
for it.



When-
ever I
come
home.

I'M
BACK.

... there's
always
someone
to say...

WELCOME
HOME.

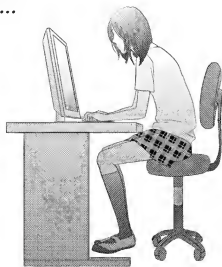
WELCOME
HOME.

... this is
all that
matters to
me now.

And
that's
why...

I want to
be the
one...

... saying
those
words.





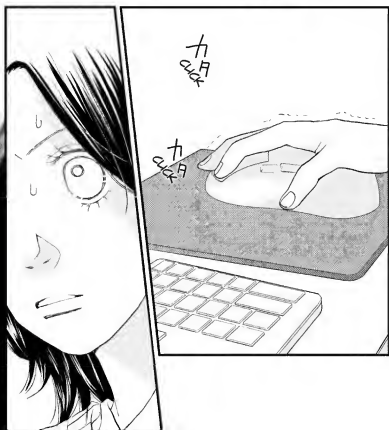
That's him...

What?!



Did I...

... make
some kind
of mistake
?





NO,
NOBARA.

IT'S NOT A
MISTAKE.



I'VE
MANAGED TO
REMEMBER
MOST OF IT.

LUCIO...



EXCEPT
FOR...

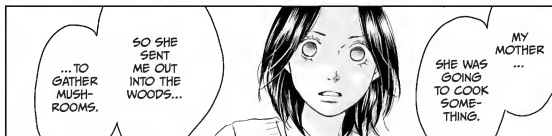
...MY
NAME.



EVERYONE
WAS SO
EXCITED.

ONE
DAY...

...THERE
WAS A
FESTIVAL.



...TO
GATHER
MUSH-
ROOMS.

SO SHE
SENT
ME OUT
INTO THE
WOODS...

MY
MOTHER
...
SHE WAS
GOING
TO COOK
SOME-
THING.



WHEN I
CAME
BACK...

IT
WAS AN
INFERNO.

THE
ENTIRE
VILLAGE
WAS UP IN
FLAMES.



H...

HOW?



... was Lee.



WHEN I
GAINED
CONSCIOUS-
NESS...



...I WAS
JUST
FLOATING IN
DARKNESS.



... THANKS
TO HIM...

... I
BECAME
A DEMON.

I PLANNED
TO USE HER AS
MY RETRIEVER
UNTIL I DRAINED
HER DRY.



ONE
DAY...

... I HEARD
A PLEA
FROM AN
OLD MAN.

AND I MADE
A CONTRACT
WITH A
LITTLE GIRL
ON THE
BRINK OF
DEATH.



WELL
...

I REALLY
ENJOYED
THIS.



WHAT
WAS I
THINKING
?



AFTER
ALL
...
...I'D
BEEN
ALONE
FOR A
LONG
TIME
TOO.



WAIT!

W-





IT'S THE
ONLY WAY
TO SET YOU
FREE.



YOU'LL
DISAPPEAR
!

IDIOT!

YOU...





THERE'S
NOTHING
TO
RETURN
TO.

YOU
DON'T
HAVE...

...A
BODY!



Ja.
AH.



Alver Bergman
1910~

Disappeared
Missing From

His body was never found.

Mitt namn är Alver.
SO MY NAME IS ALVER.

Alver Bergman
1910~



NO!

YOU CAN'T
LEAVE ME!



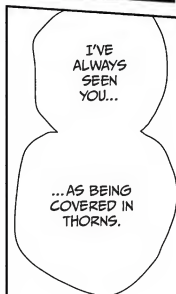
LU-

LUCIO!



ALVER...

...BERGMAN.



I'VE
ALWAYS
SEEN
YOU...

...AS BEING
COVERED IN
THORNS.



NOBARA.



...YOU'LL
BE ABLE TO
REMOVE...

...YOUR
CROWN...



PRICKING
OTHERS
...

...AND
PRICKING
YOURSELF.

I HOPE
THAT ONE
DAY...





Work
hard,
Nobara

...

...for
me.



Partner.





TICK

TOCK

TICK

TOCK



LEE...

...



I KNOW
YOU'RE
THERE!

SHOW
YOUR-
SELF!

WHERE
ARE
YOU?



YOU
LOOK SO
HAGGARD.

I EXPECTED
TO FIND A
SMILE ON
YOUR FACE.

WHAT'S
WRONG?



NOW THAT
YOUR DEMON
IS GONE, YOU
CAN RETURN
TO NORMAL
LIFE AGAIN.

THAT HE
DIDN'T HAVE
A BODY
ANYMORE?



LUCIO...

DID HE
KNOW?



DOING ALL
THAT FOR A
HUMAN!

WHAT A
FASCINATING
FELLOW HE
WAS!

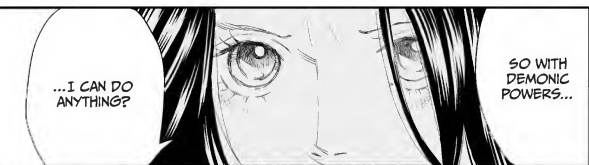


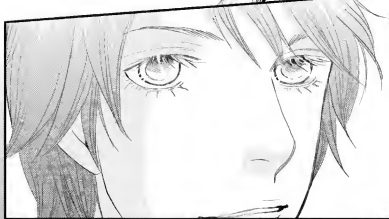
くす
くす
HEH

くす
くす
HEH

OF
COURSE
HE
KNEW.

HE UNDER-
STOOD HE
WASN'T
COMING
BACK.











WITH
DEMONIC
POWERS...

...CREATING
A VESSEL
FOR A SOUL
IS A SIMPLE
MATTER.

VERY
WELL.

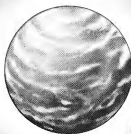


HOW
ABOUT...

...I GIVE
YOU A
LITTLE
TEST.



PRESENT
ME WITH
100 ORBS.



BETWEEN
NOW...

...AND DAY-
BREAK...

The most
I've ever
made in one
day is ten.

WHAT'S
WRONG
?

NOW,
SHOULD
YOU FAIL...

I...

I'LL DO
IT!

...Lucio.




One...

...hundred...



wait for
me...



Next
time, I'll
be the
one...

...
welcoming
you home.



いばらの冠
CROWN OF THORNS

case
II



PRESENT ME
WITH 100
ORBS BEFORE
DAYBREAK.

...as a
human.

... to
this
world
...

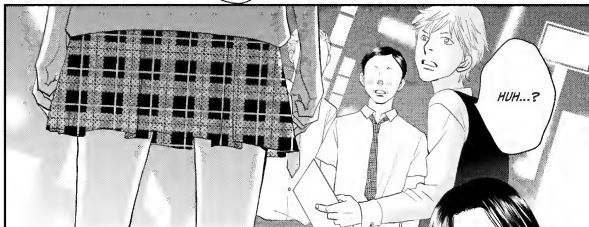
... Lucio
will
return
...

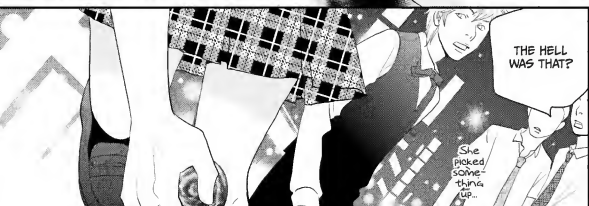
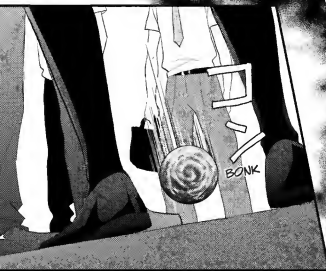
If I
do...

はあ
HUFF

はあ
HUFF

はあ
HUFF





...and it's
getting
hard to
find people.

It's past
two in the
morning...

I've never
done
anywhere
near 100
before.



And what
he told me
after...

Will I even
be able to
find enough
negative
emotions to
filter?



BECAUSE YOUR
SERVICE TO A
DEMON IS THE
REASON YOU
EVEN HAVE THAT
POWER.

WHY BY
DAYBREAK,
YOU ASK?



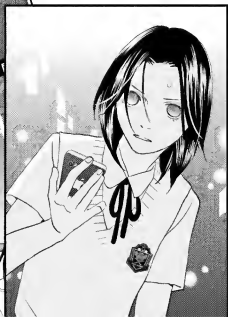
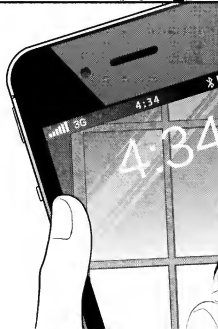
...YOUR
ABILITY TO
FILTER DARK
EMOTIONS INTO
ORBS WON'T
LAST TILL
MORNING.



NOW THAT
YOUR
DEMON IS
GONE...



DO YOU
HAVE A CELL
PHONE,
NOBARA?





LUCIO...

HE...
VANISHED.



But I won't
accept
that he's
gone.







... through
your body
to make
orbs...

That's
right...

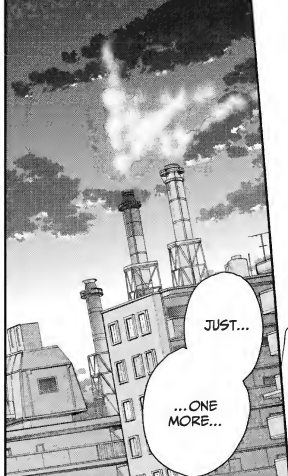
Filtering
negative
emotions...

That's
what Lucio
disappeared
to protect
me from.

That's
what
turned
Henmi
into a
demon.







JUST...

...ONE
MORE...



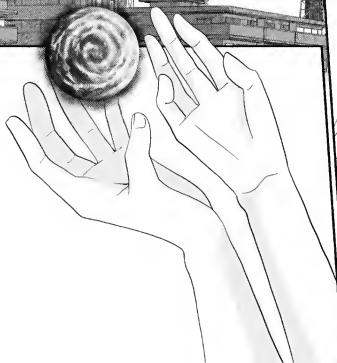
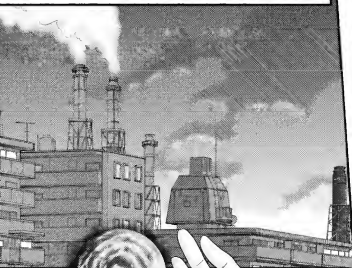
NINETY-
NINE...



The sun
is rising.

Some
of the
filtered
smoke's
still inside
me...





I never
thought
I'd care
about...

...
anyone
but
myself
...

...ONE
HUNDRED.



ONE
HUNDRED
ORBS...

...
EXACTLY.

WELL
DONE.





IT'S
REALLY
SUCH A
WASTE.

YOU
HAVE NO
IDEA WHAT A
RARE TALENT
YOU ARE.



YOU
PROMISED.

YOU SAID
YOU'D
RESURRECT
LUCIO.

SO DO
IT.



I NEVER
WOULD HAVE
BEEN ABLE TO
RECRUIT HIM
IF I HADN'T
ISOLATED HIM
LIKE THAT.

THE ONE
YOU CALLED
"LUCIO" WAS
AS WELL.



NO
WAY...



THE
FIRE...

...
DESTROYED
MY ENTIRE
VILLAGE.



ISO-
LATED
HIM...?



YEP.

へへ
HEH
へへ
HEH

YOU...

...SET
THAT
FIRE?



WHY?!



HOLY...

DAMN
IT...





...I'LL
RESUR-
RECT
HIM FOR
YOU.

AND
ONCE
THAT'S
DONE...



BUT
THERE'S
ONE MORE
THING TO
DO FIRST.

I'M GOING
TO USE THE
100 ORBS
YOU GAVE
ME...

...TO
CONSIGN
100 PEOPLE
TO PRIVATE
HELLS OF
NEGATIVITY.



...

YOU'RE LYING...



HEH

LYING?

WHEN HAVE I EVER LIED TO YOU?



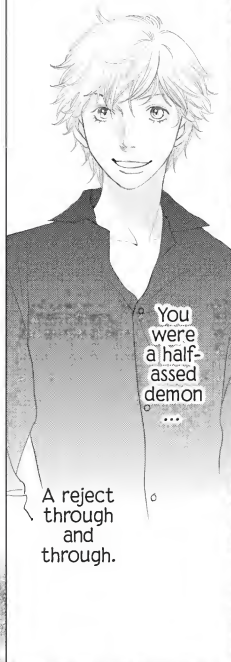
... is enjoying this.

NEED I REMIND YOU...

...WHO DIDN'T STAY TO HEAR THE FULL TERMS OF OUR DEAL?

This asshole ...

You were
a demon,
but you
were
nothing
like him.



You
were
a half-
assed
demon
...

A reject
through
and
through.

Lucio...



He's
loving
this.





I'M GOING
TO LOOK.

IT'S THE
ONLY WAY
TO SET YOU
FREE.



WHAT WAS I
THINKING?



YOU NO
LONGER
WANT ME
TO GRANT
YOUR
WISH?

WHAT'S
WRONG?



Lucio told
me...

... that he
sees me
as being
covered in
thorns.

IT'S
TIME...

...TO TAKE
OFF THE
CROWN OF
THORNS...

Because
that...

... THAT'S
PRICKING
ME AND
EVERYONE
ELSE.



...is what
Lucio
wanted.



WHAT...

...ARE YOU
DOING...?





THESE
ORBS
AREN'T
GOING
TO HURT
ANYONE.

I'M
TAKING
THEM ALL
BACK.



STOP.



I
ASSURE
YOU, IT
WON'T!

DOING
THIS
WON'T
MAKE YOU
INTO A
DEMON!

YOU'RE
GOING
TO MAKE
YOURSELF
SICK.

THERE'S
NO POINT
SACRIFICING
YOURSELF!



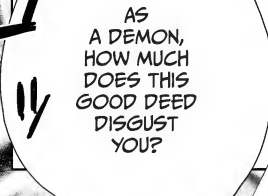
STOP!



I'M
GOING TO
SAVE 100
PEOPLE.



AND
IT'S ALL
THANKS
TO YOU.



AS
A DEMON,
HOW MUCH
DOES THIS
GOOD DEED
DISGUST
YOU?

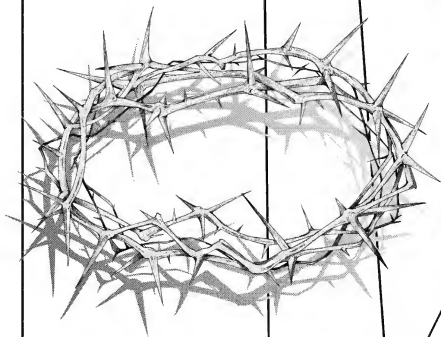
CRUSH

S-

CRUSH

Never...

I HOPE
YOU NEVER
FORGET
THIS.



I will never
wear my
crown of
thorns
again.



STOP!



Later
they
told
me...

I absorbed
all 100 orbs
into myself.

And fell
into a
long
sleep.



... that
next
to my
body...



... they
found a
barely
used cell
phone...

... with a
picture of
a smiling
Lucio...

... that wasn't
supposed
to exist
anymore.

いばらの 冠

CROWN
OF
THORNS

Last
case





SHE'S
AWAKE?

MS.
FUKAMI.

MS.
NOBARA
FUKAMI!

CAN YOU
HEAR
ME?



"A
LONG
TIME"
...?

THANK
HEAVENS
YOU'RE
OKAY.

YOU'VE BEEN
UNCONCIOUS
FOR A LONG
TIME.



WHERE
...

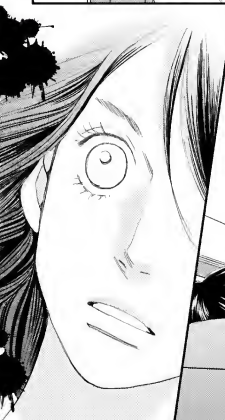


YES
MA'AM.

GET HER
PARENTS
ON THE
PHONE!



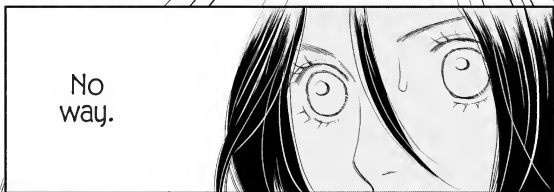
YOU PASSED
OUT ON THE
ESPLANADE
NEAR THE
FACTORIES.

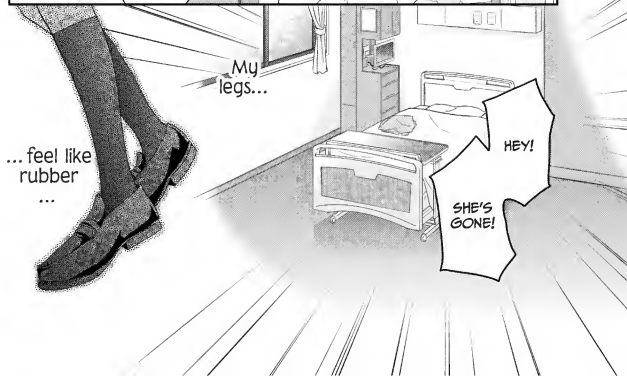


NEARLY
THREE
MONTHS.



HOW
LONG
...IS A
"LONG
TIME"?







I need
to
hurry...

I have to
know for
sure...



HUFF

はあ

How
could
I just
sleep
for so
long?

はあ
あ
HUFF



DAMN IT.
SCREW
IT ALL...

mutter
mutter
ツイン



I CAN'T
MAKE AN
ORB...

っん
POKE

っん
POKE

っん
POKE

っん
POKE

っん
POKE

っん
POKE

っん
POKE



っん
TMP







...

LUCIO

...

I'M
HOME.



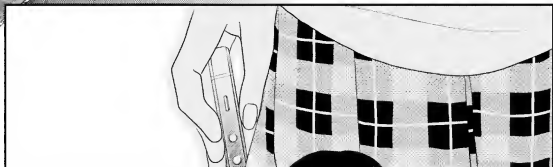
YOU'RE
SUPPOSED
TO SAY, "I'M
HOME."

AND I'LL
REPLY,
"WELCOME
BACK."



CALM
DOWN!

CAN'T
YOU OPEN
THE DOOR
GENTLY
WHEN YOU
COME
HOME?







WE HAD
A DEAL.

A
DEAL...

...THAT
YOU DIDN'T
MEET YOUR
END OF.



WHO?

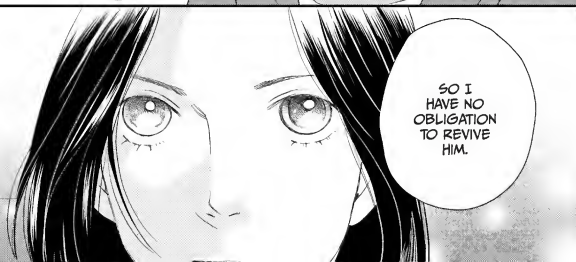


WHERE
IS HE?



BUT THAT
DIDN'T
HAPPEN,
DID IT?

I TOLD
YOU THAT I
WOULD SEND
100 PEOPLE
TO THEIR
PRIVATE
HELLS.



SO I
HAVE NO
OBLIGATION
TO REVIVE
HIM.



LUCIO
WAS GONE
FROM THIS
PICTURE, AND
NOW HE'S
BACK.

LOOK.

I
CAN SEE
RIGHT
THROUGH
YOUR LIE.



EVEN IF
YOU FIND
HIM...



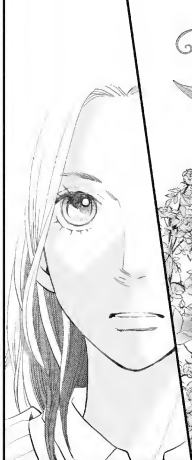
...HE
MIGHT NOT
REMEMBER
ANYTHING
ABOUT YOU.

HE MAY HAVE
ALREADY
BEGUN LIVING
A NEW LIFE.



He's
not...

...
wrong.



SHOULDN'T
YOU DO THE
SAME?

START LIVING
A NORMAL
LIFE AS IF
NONE OF
THIS EVER
HAPPENED?



The old
me would
have done
just that.

And I
certainly
have no
responsibility
to rescue
a demon
who was
exploiting
me.



I suck
at
dealing
with
people.

I hate
making
an
effort.

I just
want
to look
into the
eyes...

WHAT
CAN I
SAY?

I REALLY
WANT TO
SEE HIM.

It's
okay.

...of my
slightly
virtuous
demon.

Even if
Lucio has
forgotten
all this...



...ARE SUCH
RIDICULOUS
CREATURES.

I'VE NEVER
BEEN MORE
DISGUSTED.



YOU
HUMANS
...

<
>
HEH

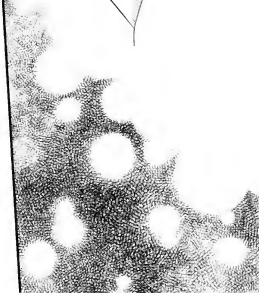


... I still
remember
everything.



Without
Lucio...

... I'm
already
starting to
wonder if it
was all just
a dream.

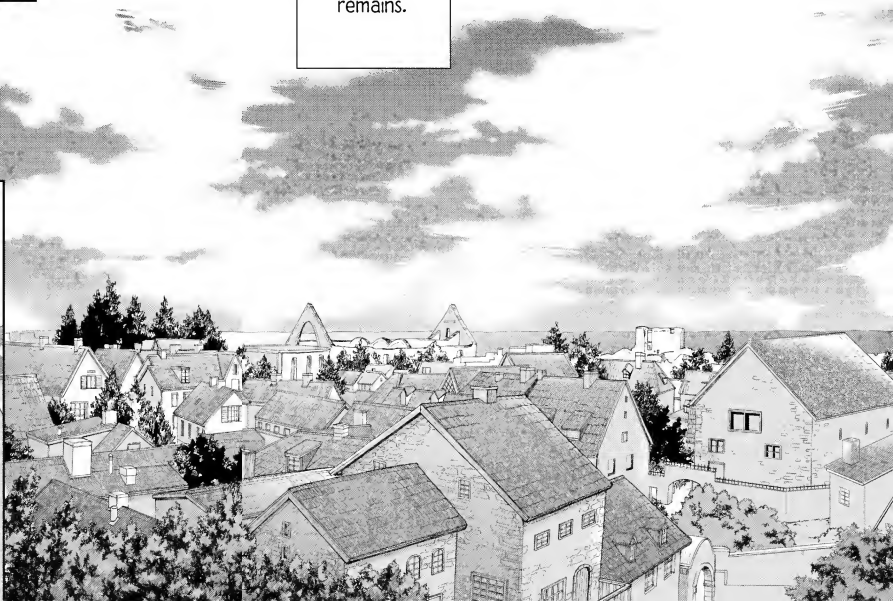


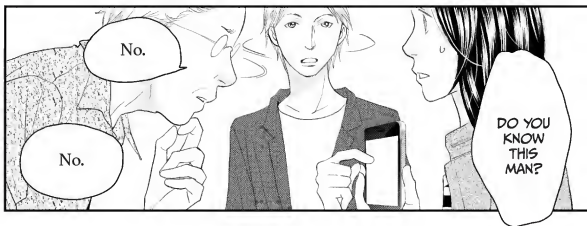
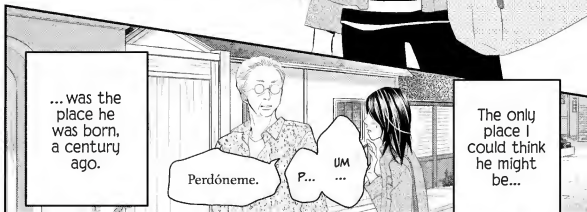


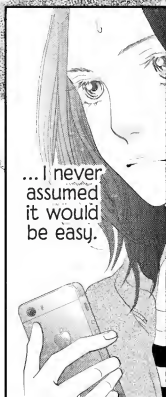
But...

...in my
heart...

...that
warm
feeling
still
remains.

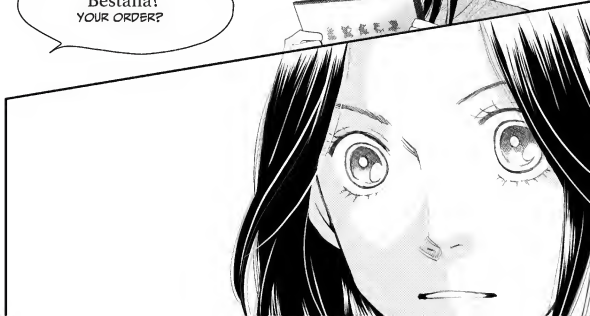
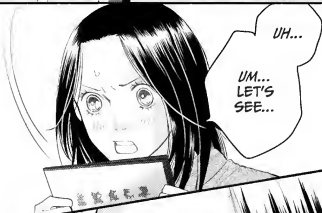






Well
...









IT'S
YOU...



Vad?
WHAT?

?



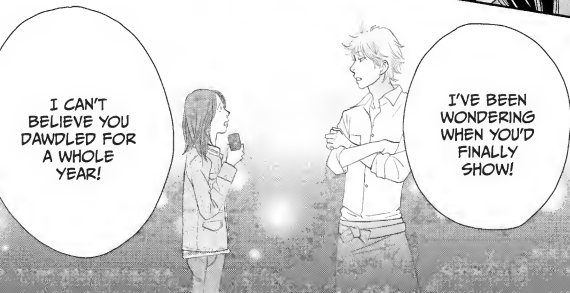
Är du okay?
ARE YOU OKAY?

**DON'T YOU
REMEMBER
ME?**

**LUCIO
!**

No
way.

It's
really
you.





I CAN'T
LEAVE HERE
WITHOUT A
PASSPORT...

I DON'T
HAVE ANY
MONEY, I
GET HUNGRY
ALL THE
TIME...

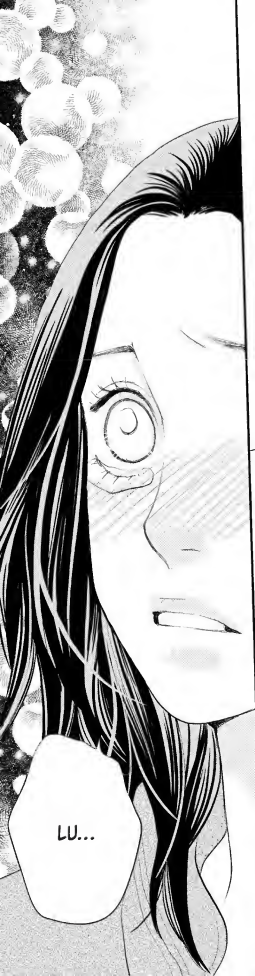
I
CAN'T FLY
ANYMORE
...

I
CAN'T
STOP
TIME...



BEING
HUMAN...

...IS A
TOTAL
PAIN
IN THE
ASS!





JUST CALL
ME LUCIO.



LUCI-

ER,
NO...

SNIFF

くずす??

WHAT
WAS IT?
ALAN...



ALVIN
...?



ARVIN
...?

...

You...
forgot
...

It's a day
like every
day, full of
wishes.



But be
careful

...

Make
sure you
don't
wish too
hard.

I WISH
MY DOG
WOULD
COME
HOME.

I WANT
TO COME
IN FIRST IN
THAT RACE!

I
WISH SHE
LOVED ME
BACK.

BE A
WINNER,
LOTTERY
TICKET!

I WANT
TO GET
MARRIED.

THERE
HAS TO BE
SOMETHING
BETTER
THAN THIS.

IF ONLY
I WAS
PRETTIER
...

I HOPE
GRANDPA
GETS
BETTER.

I NEED
A
BETTER
JOB.

I WISH
I DIDN'T
HAVE TO
GO TO
SCHOOL.

I WISH HE'D
DUMP HER
ALREADY.

I NEED
TO
PASS
THAT
TEST.

IF ONLY I
COULD DO
SOMETHING
ABOUT MY
BOSS.

I
GOTTA
LOSE
WEIGHT
!

I WISH
I WAS
BETTER
AT THE
PIANO.





Because
somewhere,
a demon
might be
listening.

The End

**BONUS
MANGA**

WHEN A HERO CALLS

I'M A
HERO.

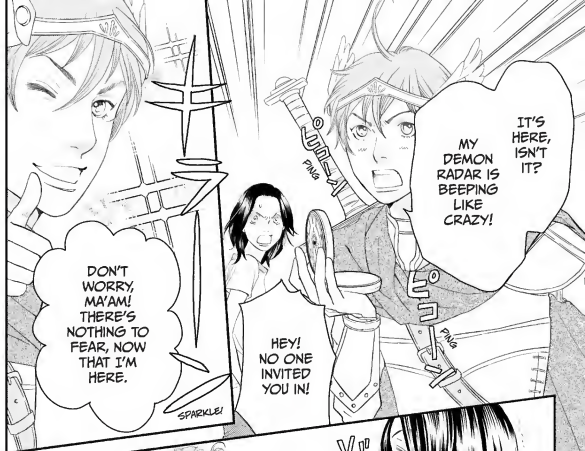
AND I'VE
HEARD
THERE'S A
DEMON IN
THE AREA.

SO I'VE
COME TO
VANQUISH
IT!

OH!

HELLO
THERE!

WHAT
?





F-FORGIVE
ME...

I'VE BEEN
LIVING A LIFE
OF CHASTITY
FOR A LONG
TIME...

WOIMP



HERE'S AN
INTERESTING
FIND...

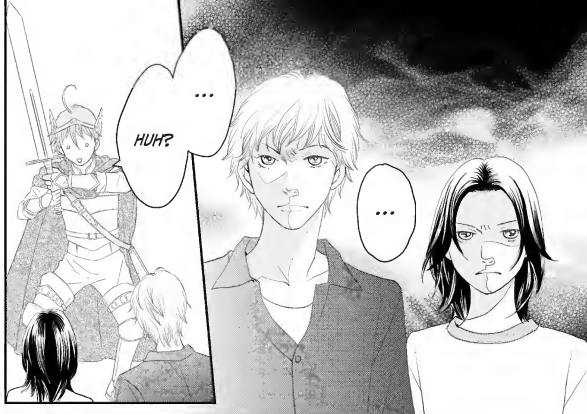


QUIET
DOWN
ALREADY
!

WHO IS
THAT?







mumble
mumble



THIS
IS WHY
I NEVER
LIKED
HEROES.

Why do
these
weird
creatures
always
visit me?

ANYWAY,
UH...

FORGIVE
THE
INTRUSION!

THE END

© AFTERWORD ©

That other shoujo manga had zombies covered...

I've wanted to write a demon manga for a long time now.

A demon should have horns and bat-like wings and fangs and a deep, gravelly voice...

Brain-storming

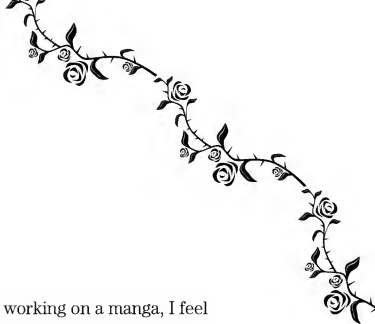
I've loved zombie- and demon-themed horror movies since I was a child.

**BWAHAHAHAHA!
I'M A DEMON
AND I OWN
THY SOUL!**

Yikes. She almost made me into that...!

**THAT'S
AWFUL!**

**THANKS FOR READING
UNTIL THE END!
—KAMIO**



Whenever I'm working on a manga, I feel an intense urge to travel. And then when I finish...for some reason I never end up going anywhere. Maybe that's why so many of my characters go on trips—they're acting as proxies for their homebody creator?

YOKO KAMIO

Yoko Kamio made her manga debut in 1986 with *HATACHINO MAMADE MATTEIRU* (Waiting Until 20). Her works since include *SUKI SUKI DAISUKI* (I Really, Really Like You), and *MARY-SAN NO HITSUJI* (Mary's Lamb).

Following its release, *HANA YORI DANGO* (Boys Over Flowers) broke sales records by becoming the first shojo manga series to sell over 61 million copies in Japan, making the series the best-selling shojo manga in Japan. The series went on to win the 1996 Shogakukan Comic Award in the Girls Preferred Division.

Crown of Thorns

VOLUME 2
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Yoko Kamio

ENGLISH TRANSLATION & ADAPTATION **Casey Loe**
TOUCH-UP ART & LETTERING **Evan Waldinger**
DESIGN **Shawn Carrico**
EDITOR **Pancha Diaz**

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